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Alberta

Think of it as your studio backlot

Alberta Film Commission

Just call us film-friendly

You could travel the world to find the right location for your film. Or, you could save yourself the trouble and come straight to Alberta. We can deliver a spectacular diversity of scenery that's easily accessible. Seasoned talent and technicians. And top-notch production equipment, facilities and services.

In fact, you could think of us as your studio backlot. And a very budget-friendly one at that.

Alberta was one of the first on the scene in North America to set up a film commission — in 1972. Since then we've made it our business to know your business inside and out.

Send us your script. We'll scout it and fire back a comprehensive location package — ASAP! Then we'll show you first hand what Alberta has to offer.

When you decide to shoot your film in Alberta, we'll be there to assist you every step of the way to make it happen. We'll save you valuable time,

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money and footwork, cut through red tape, and put you in touch with all the services you need to wrap on time and on budget. We'll even get out of your way when you want us to.

Whatever your script calls for, we'll give it our best shot. And if the shoe doesn't fit, we'll be honest with you. If it does, we'll deliver on our promises. Because we want you to come back. Word of mouth is our best advertisement. And the buzz is: Alberta's a great place to make movies. Just ask the people who've been here . . .

Q. *"Where you shot this movie looked so beautiful."*

Interviewer — Good Morning America

A. *"Alberta is extremely beautiful because it has both the plains and the wheatfields, and stark, arid land to the east, and it has very beautiful Rocky Mountains — unparalleled country — in the West. So it gives you a wide variety — say within a 100-mile radius — you could make it look like you were in five different states."*

Clint Eastwood, producer, director, star—Unforgiven

Location, location, location

Thanks, Clint, we couldn't have said it better.

From our screen debut in *An Uselfish Love* in 1910 to our Academy Award appearance in *Unforgiven* in 1992 — and beyond — Alberta has played everything from L.A. to Mars, Siberia to 16th century Japan.

Of course, you know us best for majestic mountains, forbidding badlands, emerald lakes, prairie panoramas and forests primeval. But we're city slickers, too. Glass skyscrapers and trendy bistros. Picket fences and gingerbread trim. We can give you just about anything your script calls for. Have a look for yourself....

From the big picture to the . . .

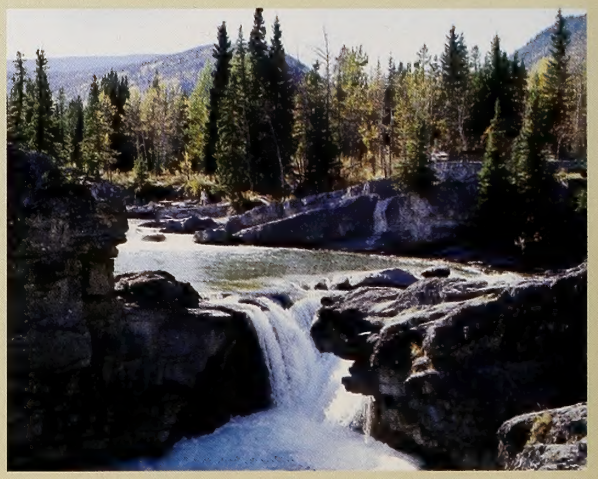
You want landscapes of epic proportions? No contest. Nobody does wide open spaces like we do. Within a short drive from your hotel, you can let your cameras pan 360-degrees without a trace of modern civilization to spoil the shot.

*S*mallest detail . . .

Looking for period detail? Alberta's cities and towns abound in fine examples of well-preserved prairie architecture.

*W*ild and . . .

We've got a reputation for being a little on the wild side. And with good reason. Nature is still at home here. In fact, it's right on our doorstep. Buffalo still roam. Coyotes still howl. Elk walk the streets of our Rocky Mountain resorts. You want wild? We can drive you there in less than 45 minutes from your hotel room door.



Civilized . . .

We're civilized, too. Across the province we've assembled a colorful cast of cultures, from Ukrainian, Icelandic and Portuguese to Vietnamese, Middle Eastern and Caribbean. All against the backdrop of our Plains Indian and fur trading heritage.

In Edmonton, the play's the thing. You'll find more live theatre companies per capita here than in Toronto, plus North America's largest Fringe Theatre Festival. Calgary is equally at home in cowboy boots and Armani suits, at the rodeo or the opera.

Main streets and . . .

When you want big city swagger for your action thriller or sophisticated comedy you'll love downtown Edmonton and Calgary. They can stand in for just about any city in North America — real or fictional. Bustling by day, they can be all yours come 7 o'clock in the evening. Not that we haven't shot car chases at 10 o'clock in the morning. Just ask.

"I made two completely different films in the Calgary area within two years. One of them, Dead Bang, had it doubling for parts of the United States including Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma and even parts of Los Angeles, and the second had it as the Czech-German border."

John Frankenheimer says he saved $3.5 million by shooting The Fourth War in Alberta.

Mean streets . . .

While our cities and towns are among the cleanest and safest in the world, no one said there isn't a "wrong side of the tracks". You want mean back streets for that spy thriller? Check us out. Power plants, refineries, warehouses for those exciting *Terminator*-style do-or-die endings? Ditto.

Past and . . .

We've preserved our past to perfection. In Edmonton, you'll find a complete replica of an 1846 Hudson's Bay Company fur trading fort; plus streets from 1885, 1905 and 1920. All authentically furnished and just waiting for your cast of characters to move in.

Calgary's Heritage Park is another trip back to the good old days — with the added attraction of an old fashioned paddlewheeler and North America's only fully functioning antique midway. In rural Alberta, some of our prairie towns look like they haven't changed a hair in three quarters of a century.

All the locations you need are here. From small and big town America to Mars — the variety is quite astonishing."

Mary Kahn, spokesperson for Atlantis Films
Re: Episodes for Ray Bradbury Theatre

Future perfect . . .

We can take you into the future, too. Or even out of this world. We put the *Ray Bradbury Theatre* on Mars. Who knows where you could go with our building shaped like a flying saucer.

Wet and Dry . . .

Alberta has water, water everywhere. Raging rapids. Picturesque waterfalls. Jewel-tone lakes. Rivers of no return. Even surf crashing on beaches — indoors and out! If you need water, we'll walk on it to find just the spot you're looking for.

Our badlands, on the other hand, evoke images of thirsty cowboys, desert mirages, circling buzzards, Indians on horseback retreating in clouds of dust. Canyons, cliffs, coulees, hoodoos and other strange rock formations imitate the American west from Arizona to the Dakotas. Smack in the middle of it all is the Royal Tyrrell Museum, home of the biggest collection of complete dinosaur skeletons in the world.

Interiors and . . .

We can get you into all the right places for your interiors. Power boardrooms. Deserted warehouses. Elegant concert halls and halls of learning. Plus fully equipped studio facilities for indoor sets.

*E*xteriors . . .

For exteriors, just name your look and era.
We have almost 100 years of architectural styles at your service.

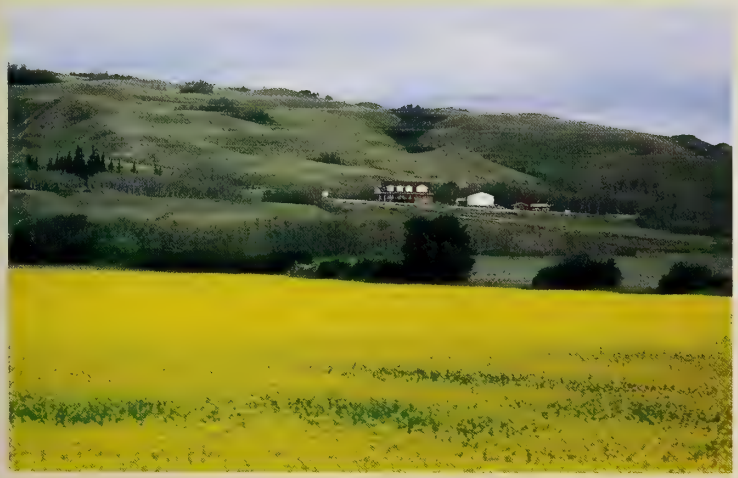
Mountains and Meadows . . .

Our Rocky Mountains speak for themselves. They also speak for the Alps, the Himalayas, the Yukon — all the world's high spots. They can be rugged and brutal, gentle and lyrical, hung with glaciers or aproned in meadows of wildflowers.

Accessible? On a clear day you can see them from Calgary. After all, they're just a 45-minute drive from downtown.

Town and . . .

Our small towns, farms and ranches are the picture of middle American and Western rural life. Barns, grain elevators, and small country churches dot the landscape. Cattle graze. Fields of golden wheat and yellow canola fill the horizon. Toto, are we in Kansas yet? Could be.



Country . . .

Spectacular in all seasons

Summer. Fall. Winter. Spring. We've got them all.

Cinematographers love our summers — sunny and dry with vast blue skies and 16-hour days.

Come fall, golden larches light up the mountain sides while prairie foliage goes down for winter in a blaze of yellow, red and orange. The weather is crisp, cool, and dry and the skies get even bluer.

Ah, yes. Winter. We admit to it. And we're proud of it. Cold? Yes, but it's dry and sunny. Snow? Plenty, but it doesn't fall often, stays clean and is absolutely dazzling against those famous blue skies. And we've got all those facilities from the 1988 Winter Olympics, too.

In springtime, we absolutely blossom.

You don't like red tape?

Alberta just loves being in movies. So, we'll do almost anything to help you out. Just ask. We got a horse on Calgary's rapid transit for one film. We flew a helicopter between downtown skyscrapers for another. You need to blow something up? Can do.

Alberta is a free-enterprise province. We hate red tape. Our job is to clear the way for you to do yours — make films.

Permits? It's a one-stop process. The Alberta Film Commission will make all the right contacts to get you the necessary approvals. We'll also connect you to all the talent and resources you'll need and

Q. *How did you get a horse on Calgary's rapid transit?*

A. *We just asked.*

Arvi Liimatainen, production supervisor, How the West Was Fun

Neither do we!

make ourselves available 24 hours a day to respond to your unexpected needs. Our services are free, of course.

We've been cutting red tape for almost a quarter of a century. And our scissors just keep getting sharper. Try us.

And for those particularly moving scenes . . .

We can put you into anything that moves. A Wells Fargo coach and horses? You got it. A modern underground subway? Check. Antique steam trains. Vintage airplanes. Military equipment. Unparalleled collections of horse-drawn wagons, farm machinery, cars, vans, and trucks. They're all here and ready to roll when your cameras are. And we'll cut red tape to get you on the streets and highways, bridges, tracks and airports to put them in action.

C-GTDR
GZUF

You want 3000 samurai warriors? In 16th century armor? 800 on horseback?

That was the shopping list Japanese producer/director Haruki Kadokawa brought to us for his $50-million samurai epic *Heaven and Earth*. And we moved heaven and earth to fill it.

Calgary production manager Doug MacLeod recruited and trained 3,000 extras. Wendy Partridge of Momentum Manufacturing suited them up in 16th century samurai armor.

F & D Scene Changes built them a period Japanese castle and fort and armed them with authentic swords, spears, rifles and flag poles. And seasoned wrangler John Scott put together the biggest assembly of saddled horses in North American screen history.

On deadline.

"Working in Calgary turned out to be a treat. It was a tough picture, the crew worked very hard, and the results are on the screen. The staff at the prison were exceptional. I can't remember receiving that kind of cooperation. I look forward to bringing another film to Calgary."

Mel Swope, Senior Vice President - Production
MGM Worldwide Television Inc.
Re: Convict Cowboy, *shot in Calgary*

No problem!

Bring us your shopping list and we'll perform similar miracles for your film. We've got all the experienced talent, crew, services, equipment and resources you'll need to take your film from script to can.

Bottom line

Of course, we want you to spend your money in Alberta. But we'll do everything possible to help you keep more of it — and get more bang for your buck:

Look at these Alberta advantages:

- no provincial sales tax
- lowest hotel tax (5%) in Canada
- lowest gasoline tax in Canada
- union rates the lowest in Canada and among the most reasonable in North America
- very reasonable fees for permits, police, and other local administrative costs.

Add that to the cheap Canadian dollar and you have five more good reasons why Alberta is the ideal location for your film.

More Alberta advantages

- They don't call us Canada's sunshine province for nothing. You can count on our legendary clear blue skies at least 70% of the time. And because of our northern latitude, we get over 16 hours of daylight during the summer months.
- Our average summer temperatures range between 60° and 70° F.
- We're easy to get to from wherever you are. Edmonton and Calgary have international airports served by Air Canada, American Airlines, Canadian Airlines International, Delta, KLM, Lot (Poland), Lufthansa, Northwest, and United Airlines. Calgary has two direct flights daily to L.A.
- Two studio zones — Calgary and Edmonton — with a wide diversity of scenery within a two-hour radius.
- Film-friendly provincial and local governments that will give you the red carpet treatment.
- Film-friendly residents who are eager to cooperate because they know the film industry is good for their economy.

Haven't you seen us somewhere before?

You bet. Alberta's been on the silver screen for 85 years. Here's only a partial list of the films, made-for-TV movies and series you've seen us in:

An Unselfish Love
Back to God's Country
Cameron of the Royal Mounted
The Alaskan
The Calgary Stampede
White Fang
The Canadian
Eternal Love
His Destiny
Son of Lassie
The Emperor Waltz
The Northwest Stampede
The River of No Return
Saskatchewan
Nikki, Wild Dog of the North
Wings of Chance
The Naked Flame
King of the Grizzlies
Little Big Man
I'm Going to Get Elliot Boy
Prime Cut
Pioneer Woman
The Visitor
Locusts
Across the Great Divide
Buffalo Bill and the Indians
Days of Heaven
Goldenrod
Springtime in the Rockies
The Far Country
Silver Streak
Marie-Anne
Ski-Lift to Death
Why Shoot the Teacher
Superman
The Wild Pony
Lost and Found
Wild Horse Hank
Amber Waves
High Country
Silence of the North
Touched by Love
Superman II
Death Hunt
Firebird 2015 A.D.
Ghostkeeper
Harry Tracy
Running Brave
Superman III
Draw
Natty Gann
Finders Keepers
Fourth War
Loyalties
Vanishing Act
Dead Bang
Stone Fox
Bye Bye Blues
Quest for Fire
Betrayed
Gunsmoke Revisited
Heaven and Earth (Haruki Kadokawa)
Blood River
Solitaire
Blood Clan
Striker's Mountain
Ray Bradbury Theatre
Black Fox (trilogy)
Ordeal in the Arctic
Small Sacrifices
Unforgiven
Cool Runnings
One More Mountain
Wings of Courage
Lonesome Dove, The Series
Road to Saddle River
Destiny Ridge
North of 60
Legends of the Fall
Convict Cowboy
Children of the Dust
While Justice Sleeps
Last of the Dogmen

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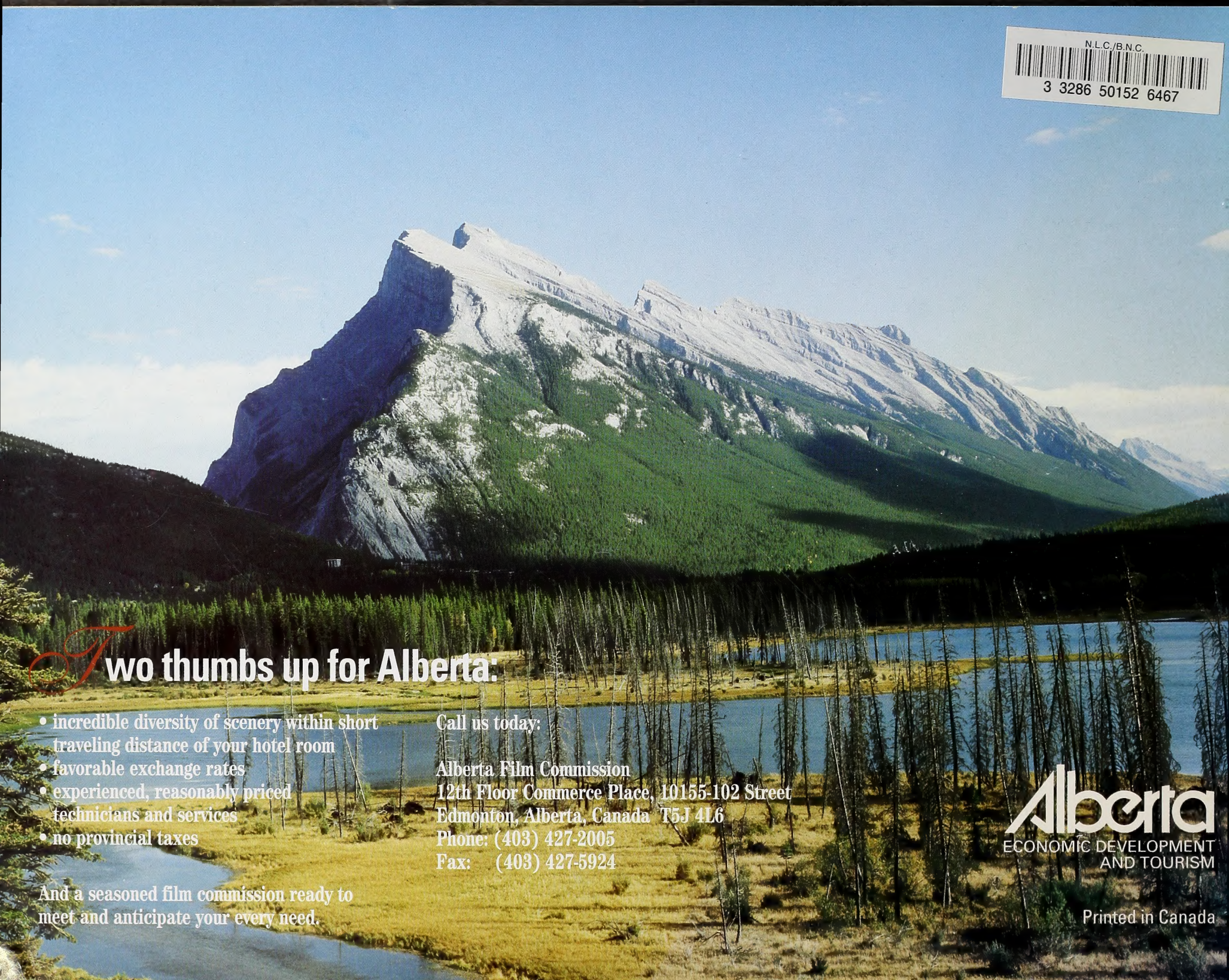

Two thumbs up for Alberta:

- incredible diversity of scenery within short traveling distance of your hotel room
- favorable exchange rates
- experienced, reasonably priced technicians and services
- no provincial taxes

And a seasoned film commission ready to meet and anticipate your every need.

Call us today:

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Alberta
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND TOURISM

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